

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 September 2005 (15.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/085983 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 3/03**,
G05G 1/28, G06K 11/08

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,
ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2005/000320

(22) International Filing Date: 7 March 2005 (07.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2004901181 8 March 2004 (08.03.2004) AU

Published:

— with international search report

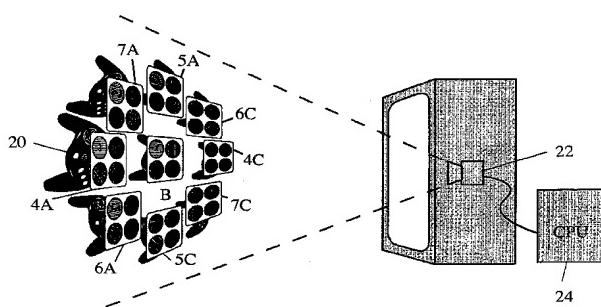
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

(54) Title: AN ORIENTATION DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM



WO 2005/085983 A1

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a data collection system having: (a) at least one sensing means to detect and receive a visible light signal; (b) an optical characteristic recognition processing means which receives signals from said at least one sensing means; (c) at least one optical signal means associated with a respective one of said sensing means which generates, reflects or transmits visible light to said sensing means; wherein said optical signal means causes an optical characteristic to be visible to, or sensed by, said sensing means, said optical characteristic being caused to change when the relative angle between said sensing means and said at least one optical signal means is changed, whereby change in said optical characteristic is processed by said processing means to identify a physical or other characteristic of said at least one optical signal means. The present invention further provides a gaming system such as a computer based, console based, arcade based gaming system, wherein a system as described in the previous paragraph is utilised to provide orientation data to a control system for said gaming system and/or an identification mechanism to allow access to said gaming system. The present invention further provides an optical signal panel for use in an object orientation data collection system and/or in an identification system, said optical signal panels including a plurality optical signal means which independently or in association with each other produce a change in the visible signal emanating from said panel, said signal being adapted to be processed by a signal processing means to identify and/or quantify the magnitude and/or direction of change in orientation of said panel relative to a sensing means which senses said optical signal.